

strong support of giving law enforcement any and every legal tool they need to protect children and punish abusers. However, as someone who is passionate about criminal justice reform, I cannot support the current version of this bill.

Crimes against children are pathetic and disgusting, and those who hurt children must be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. While we want to protect these vulnerable individuals, it is also important to consider the legal ramifications of this bill. We are considering a bill that would impose a mandatory minimum sentence of life imprisonment in many cases. Repeat offenders should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. However, I do not believe that mandatory minimum sentences are an effective solution. Congress does not know the facts of every case—but the judges will. That is why I do not support legally binding judges to give mandatory sentences—but instead giving the judges the freedom to consider each option available.

Again, I fully support the goal of this bill—punishing those who commit horrible crimes against children. However, if we are going to make such substantial changes to U.S. federal code, I believe that this bill requires more discussion. In its current form, I cannot support H.R. 1862.

I would encourage my colleagues to vote NAY on this resolution.

THE BALANCING TRADE ACT

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the “Balancing Trade Act,” an important bill that requires U.S. policy to take the trade deficit seriously.

This legislation provides actionable steps to re-balance our trade deficits with countries with which we have a deficit of \$10 billion or more for three consecutive years. Following the Trump administration’s recent Executive orders on U.S. trade policy, and recent letter to Congress to renegotiate NAFTA, this legislation offers actionable steps to the Administration.

Bad trade deals have contributed to a loss of nearly 4 million American jobs and a deficit of \$43.6 billion. President Trump promised a trade deal that would get Americans back to work and reduce our deficit. By prioritizing our worst trade deals, we are ensuring that some of these promises are met.

An old adage reminds us: there are two kinds of failures: “by those who think and don’t do, and the other by those who don’t think and do.” Our “free trade” deals have been a major failure of the second order.

Persistent, massive trade deficits are a drag on the U.S. economy and impair job creation. Now more than ever we need a trade policy that grows the economy and creates jobs in the United States.

RECOGNIZING DAVID FLAUM

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate David Flaum on receiving the prestigious Rochester Rotary Award.

Mr. Flaum currently serves as Chief Executive Officer and President of Flaum Management Company, which he founded in 1985. He has dedicated his career to managing and developing real estate, from retail centers to office buildings and industrial facilities. Mr. Flaum has been directly involved in the restoration of many commercial buildings in our region, which has created new jobs and contributed to the revitalization of our local economy.

In addition to his professional work, David and his wife, Ilene, have generously supported various charitable causes and organizations. Mr. and Mrs. Flaum established the Bob Witmer Campership Fund, which provides free summer camp experiences to underprivileged children, and the David and Ilene Flaum Eye Institute.

Mr. Flaum is the 80th recipient of the Rochester Rotary Award, which is the oldest civic award in our area. The award is given to outstanding individuals who exemplify the motto, “Service Above Self” and make significant business, professional, cultural, or civic contributions to our community. There is no question that David embodies these ideals. His vision, dedication, and generosity have made our region a better place to live and will continue to benefit local families and businesses for years to come. It is a privilege to call David my friend.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating David Flaum on this well-deserved recognition and wishing him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAE JEMISON FOR HER OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AS AN ASTRONAUT AND SCIENTIST

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mae Jemison, a physician, scientist and astronaut whose pioneering career has furthered our understanding of the world around us. Dr. Jemison has achieved excellence across a number of disciplines as a result of her hard work and perseverance.

After receiving a medical degree from Cornell Medical College and completing her medical training, Dr. Jemison served as a Peace Corps Medical Officer, treating Peace Corps volunteers in Liberia and Sierra Leone. She was then accepted into NASA’s astronaut program in 1987, providing launch support and assistance until her space mission aboard the Space Shuttle *Endeavor* in September 1992. During her mission, Dr. Jemison conducted scientific experiments on bone cell research and the effects of weightlessness on the human body, which contributed to advance-

ments in our understanding of life sciences. She then resigned in 1993 from NASA, and has since founded several companies, including BioSentient Corp. which develops treatments for chronic pain and stress disorders.

Dr. Jemison has had an extraordinary career and has affected countless lives through her work. In addition to breaking down barriers as the first black woman in space, Dr. Jemison has utilized her medical background and business acumen to develop novel medical treatments for a variety of illnesses. She has also excelled in academia, working as a professor at Dartmouth and Cornell, and is the founder of the Dorothy Jemison Foundation for Excellence, a nonprofit that promotes science education initiatives. Collectively, Dr. Jemison has had an indelible impact on a variety of disciplines through her work, and she continues to inspire new generations of scientists.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Dr. Mae Jemison for her outstanding career. Dr. Jemison’s work with NASA, in medicine and in business has impacted and inspired countless individuals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present at recorded votes due to medical reasons.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall No. 283, YEA on rollcall No. 284, and YEA on rollcall No. 285.

REMARKS IN OPPOSITION TO H.R. 1842

HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 30, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in opposition to H.R. 1842, the Strengthening Children’s Safety Act of 2017.

Crimes against children are abhorrent, and those who commit them should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. In 2015, in my home state of Georgia, 22,163 children were victims of abuse. Eight hundred of those children were subjected to sexual abuse. I recognize the merits of H.R. 1842. However, as a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I cannot support a bill which brings sweeping changes to Federal code without a thorough review process. This bill creates mandatory minimum sentences, which will effectively remove discretion from the judges who should be making sentencing decisions—not Congress.

This bill has good intentions, and as a member of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children’s Caucus, I am in favor of strengthening the laws that protect our nation’s children. However, this bill also enacts major changes in the criminal law, and I do not believe it is right for our committee to pass this bill without holding the appropriate hearings. I believe that the testimony of experts in the fields relevant to this bill would be of great